

Information Literacy-classroom activity
Randy Shepler
George Washington High School
Grade level 10-12

Part of the curriculum for Multimedia is knowing about the different file formats of audio files. There are many different types and each one has its advantages and disadvantages. It is important for the students to know where to find this information and how to determine if the information is accurate and is written in a way they can understand. When you are doing research on technical topics such as audio files, some of the language can be very technical and hard to understand.

This assignment introduces them to research on the internet. They need to find websites that will explain the different audio file types and what the advantages and disadvantages are. They will learn to find websites that aren't too technical and written in a way they will understand. They are also required to cite the websites they used.

Multimedia Assessment 6

Audio File Formats

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

Points: _____ / 100

Objective: After completion of this unit you will be able to identify the different types of sound files, advantages and disadvantages of each, and their uses.

Instructions: Do a search on the Internet and find information on the following audio formats. Type your answers using Word in complete sentences. **HINT:** Do a search for Sound File Formats

Platform means Mac or Windows (pc)

1) WMA format _____ / 25 Points

- (a) Who developed the WMA format and what does WMA stand for?
- (b) What software is needed to play WMA files?
- (c) What are the advantages **and** disadvantages of WMAs.
- (d) What platform are WMA files designed for? Platform is the operating system.
- (e) Cite your source(s).

2) MIDI format _____ / 25 Points

- (a) What does the acronym MIDI stand for?
- (b) What platform does MIDI run on?
- (c) How is a MIDI file different from a WMA file?
- (d) What are the advantages **and** disadvantages of MIDI files?
- (e) Cite your source(s).

3) MP3 format _____ / 25 Points

- (a) What does MP3 stand for?
- (b) Is special software needed to play MP3s? List one.
- (c) What makes MP3 a desirable format?
- (d) What are the advantages **and** disadvantages of MP3s?
- (e) Cite your source(s).

4) Audio format of your choice (there are many of them) _____ / 25 Points

Don't use WMA, MIDI or MP3!

- (a) What is the name of the format?
- (b) What platform does this format run on?
- (c) What, if any, special software is needed to play these files.
- (d) What are the advantages **and** disadvantages of this format?
- (e) Cite your source(s).

EXTRA CREDIT (5 pts): What was the first song to be converted to an MP3?